

Richard Thau of New York, Ms. Sandra R. Turner of Florida, Mrs. Sunny Warren of Georgia, Mr. Albert Zapanta of Virginia, and Mr. Roger Zion of Indiana.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 217. An act to amend title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to consolidate the Federal programs for housing assistance for the homeless into a block grant program that ensures that States and communities are provided sufficient flexibility to use assistance amounts effectively; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4119. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of 24 proposed rescissions of budgetary resources; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4120. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1704. A bill for the relief of Renee Merhej and Wadih Merhej; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN (for herself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. REID, Mr. GLENN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. REED):

S. 1705. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1706. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to encourage States to enact laws that ban the sale of alcohol through a drive-up or drive-through sales window; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BUMPERS, and Mr. BYRD):

S. 1707. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for improved safety of imported foods; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. GLENN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. REED, and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 1708. A bill to improve education; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 1709. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide assistance to States for the implementation of enhanced pre-vocational training programs, in order to improve the likelihood of enabling welfare recipients to make transitions from public assistance to employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. MIKULSKI) (by request):

S. 1710. A bill to provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CHAFEE (for Mr. LOTT):

S. Res. 191. A resolution making Majority party appointments for the Committee on Governmental Affairs for the 105th Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Con. Res. 79. A concurrent resolution to commend the bravery and honor of the citizens of Remy, France, for their actions with respect to Lieutenant Houston Braly and to recognize the efforts of the 364th Fighter Group to raise funds to restore the stained glass windows of a church in Remy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN (for herself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. REID, Mr. GLENN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. REED):

S. 1705. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools; to the Committee on Finance.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1998

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I send to the desk a bill and ask for its appropriate referral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce, along with a number of my colleagues, the Public School Modernization Act of 1998. This legislation addresses one of the most fundamental problems with public education in America, and that is that many of our elementary and secondary schools are literally falling down around our children.

The Public School Modernization Act of 1998 will help States and school districts finance their school improvement priorities. It will help them modernize classrooms so that no child misses out on the information age. It will help them ease overcrowding so that no child is forced to learn the principles of geometry in a gymnasium. It will help them patch leaky roofs, fix broken plumbing, and strengthen the facilities that provide the foundation for our children's education. Without this support, schools will continue to crumble under the weight of deferred maintenance and neglect, and our children's education, and their future, and our Nation's future, will suffer as a result.

Education in America correlates with opportunity for individuals, but also for our country as a whole. The rungs of the ladder of opportunity in America are crafted in the classroom. Consider that high school graduates earn 46 percent more each year than those who don't graduate from high school. College graduates earn 155 percent more every year than those who do not graduate from high school. Over the course of a lifetime, the most educated Americans will earn five times as much as the least educated Americans. So education is clearly related to individual prosperity and the ability of people to function in this new economy.

Education also correlates to almost all indicia of economic and social well-being. Educational attainment can directly be tied to income, to health, to the likelihood of being on welfare, to the likelihood of being incarcerated in a prison, and to the likelihood of voting and participating in our democracy.

However, education is more than a tool simply to lift people out of poverty or to provide a better standard of living for individuals. It is also the engine that will drive America's economy in the 21st century. In a Wall Street Journal survey last year of leading U.S. economists, 43 percent of them said that the single most important thing that we could do to increase our long-term economic growth would be to invest more in education and research and development. Nothing else came close to education in that survey. One economist said, "One of the few things that economists will agree upon is the fact that economic growth is very strongly dependent on our own abilities."

A recent study by the Manufacturing Institute concluded that increasing the education level of workers by 1 year raises the productivity level by 8.5 percent in manufacturing. Imagine, Mr. President, if you will, that in this global economy, the only way we will be able to hold on to our position as the country in the world with the highest standard of living is if we prepare our work force—as a whole, all of our workers—to compete at the highest level of competition and to produce at the highest level of productivity.